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August 8, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Group (CI)
2 p.m., Thursday, August 8, 1963

PRESENT: Governor Harriman, The Attorney General, Mr. Gilpatric, Mr. Murrow,
Mr. Forrestal, Mr. Coffin vice Mr. Bell, General Carter vice Mr.
McCone, General Krulak vice General Taylor

NSC REVIEW
COMPLETED,
6/26/2003

Mr. Koren was present for Item No. 1.

Mr. Engle and Mr. Evans were present for Item No. 2.

Mr. Maechling and Mr. Nolan were present for the Meeting.

1. Southeast Asia Status Report

Thailand - Mr. Koren reported that recent discussions with Sarit on U.S. contingency planning for Laos have reassured him on U.S. policy to counter Communist threats to Thailand. He does not believe that the current Thai/Cambodian dispute should be taken too seriously. This development is related to Sihanouk's long standing effort to obtain a border guarantee from Thailand.

The Group discussed the different views held by JUSMAG and the Embassy on the Communist threat now facing Thailand. Mr. Gilpatric stated that DOD tends to agree with the Embassy's analysis that the threat is insurgency rather than external aggression. Mr. Koren added that this subject, as well as others, will be considered during discussions now being held by AID on the Long Range Assistance Strategy Plan for Thailand.

Viet-Nam - Mr. Koren reviewed the latest developments in the Buddhist situation and stated that favorable steps taken by the GVN have been off-set by recent statements by members of the Nhu family. He believes that the Government is carrying out the announced policy of conciliating the Buddhists but it is not possible to exclude the recent statements by the Nhus. Based on the latest incidents, State is preparing a message for the field pointing out the need for the GVN to publicly reaffirm the conciliatory policy and disavow the statements of the Nhus.

Mr. Forrestal informed the Group of high-level interest on the status of security plans to protect U.S. personnel in Saigon as well as the need to periodically review other contingency plans. The Group agreed that Defense/State report on the security plans and other responsible agencies were asked to take the necessary action to review contingency plans.

Mr. Gilpatric stated that due to recent augmentation of helicopter flight instructors in Viet-Nam, the shortage as reflected in the status report has been corrected.

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The Chairman stated that despite increased Viet Cong attacks, it appears that continued progress is being made in the military effort. Mr. Koren added that it is not possible to identify this increased Viet Cong activity to the Buddhist crisis. General Krulak commented that Viet Cong activity is still below 1959 levels.

The Group agreed that in the future the Thailand section of the SEA Status report should be combined with the quarterly progress report of the Thai Internal Defense Plan when their timing coincides.

2. Report on Public Safety Activities

Mr. Coffin presented a summary of police assistance activities as reflected in the AID report. He emphasized that across the board progress has been made with less people on the job. He pointed out that the lead time to get advisors to their field assignments has been cut in half. Plans are now being finalized to consolidate all public safety personnel operations.

Mr. Coffin stated that Mr. Gilpatric informed him that General O'Meara has agreed on arrangements to permit the Inter-American Police Academy to remain in its present location until June, 1965, during which time AID can, in consultation with General O'Meara, acquire suitable alternate facilities. It was suggested that the Academy should be located in close proximity to military schools in the Canal Zone to permit coordination between these two activities.

The Group discussed various aspects of support for internal security in the UAM African states and the proposal to phase out U.S. police assistance programs. It was brought out in this discussion that State desires to maintain these programs at this current level, but AID believes that these programs should not be continued. Mr. Forrestal remarked these are one of the most inexpensive types of programs available and rather than have the French support police assistance programs, we should encourage them to take over the more expensive military assistance programs.

The Attorney General agreed with the Chairman's observation that there is a strong desire on the part of the governments in these previous French colonies not to be completely dependent on France and they desire and should have the option to look to other countries including the U.S. for assistance. Mr. Murrow pointed out that the French are becoming increasingly sensitive to U.S. efforts in the former French colonies. The Group agreed that State and AID should conduct a study in depth on the subject of assistance programs in Africa and report on their findings to the Group in about four weeks. No actions should be taken to terminate current police assistance programs until this report is made.

Mr. Engle reported on steps taken by his office to establish the International Police Academy. The Attorney General questioned Mr. Engle on the adequacy of planning for the Academy and stressed the importance of clearly defining its purpose and curriculum. The Group agreed with the Attorney General's suggestion that AID would submit a report to the members

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of the Group covering the following: The purpose of the Academy; benefit to be derived by the U.S. in establishing this academy; criteria for the selection of students; and, any other pertinent details to clarify the function and operation of the Academy. The Group re-emphasized the need for careful consideration of publicity of the International Police Academy and agreed that AID would coordinate this matter with Mr. Murrow.

3. Report on Additional Countries Required to Prepare Internal Defense Plans

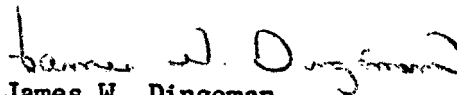
The Group approved the list of countries recommended by State and DOD that should be required to prepare Internal Defense Plans. Mr. Maechling reported that in submitting this recommended list, State's Comprehensive Policy Paper Program was considered.

The approved list contains the following countries: Indonesia, Somali Republic, Jordan, Iraq, Peru, Honduras; also Pakistan and Brazil, as part of a Comprehensive Policy Paper.

The Group agreed that after staffing by the responsible Washington agencies, these plans will be submitted to the Group. The Group will then determine what additional action will be taken. State was requested to prepare a schedule on when these plans will be ready for submission.

Miscellaneous

The meeting of the Group scheduled for August 15 has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on August 22, 1963.


James W. Dingeman
Executive Secretary
Special Group (CI)

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